

Meeting of the Airport Heights Community Council October 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order via ZOOM by President Carolyn Ramsey. A quorum was present.

Attendance: Carolyn Ramsey – Columbine; John Whitlock – Eastridge Drive; Barbara Karl – east 16th; Mike Webb (Airport Heights Elementary Principal); Genevieve Mina – 20th; Assembly Member Meg Zaletel; Brian Murphy – Fire Station 3; State Senator Tom Begich; Rayette Sterling – Sunrise Dr.; Assembly Member Felix Rivera; Claudia Duffield – Alder Dr.; Ed Brewer – Alder Drive; Stephanie Taylor – Anchorage Assembly Candidate; Mark Sabel – Aleutian St.; Ket Hoopingarner – oak drive; Michael Galginaitis – Sunrise Dr.; Lavern M. and Lola Long – 20th and Lake Otis; Brita Mjos – Alder; Rep. Geran Tarr – East 18th; Mari, Kippy, and Maureen – Primrose; Joy Boston, JBER; Jena Ferrarese – Kuskokwim; Susan Klein (visitor – outside of council); Jenny-Marie Stryker- east 18th; Amber Morris – 18th; Emily Weiser – In the process of moving to the neighborhood; Anne Lazenby – Valarian; Leah Moss – Lake Otis; Loki Gayle Tobin (Staff for Senator Begich); Stephanie Warnok – Oak; Lynn Eldridge; Kalen Saxton; Carl Jacobs – School Board; Roger Gallett – Garden; Anna – Wintergreen; Karen Walker, Eastridge; Derek M. – Wintergreen; Larry Haden – 18th

Barbara Karl moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and the proposed agenda as amended. Jenna Ferrarese seconded the motion. The motions passed by unanimous consent.

Assembly and Legislative Reports: Assembly Member Meg Zaletel: Discussed passage of mask mandate. This mandate will be active for 60 days or until two hospitals no longer have to operate under crisis standards of care; the assembly received the budget; Member Zaletel discussed the area of the budget related to the mobile crisis team and how she hopes to preserve the mobile crisis team as it exists in its current form; Member Zaletel also discussed the prospect of the pink compost cans being placed on hiatus for a year until they can figure out a way to make the program “pencil” and how it can integrate into the new and improved central transfer station. Assembly Member Rivera discussed appointments to boards and commissions and mayoral/executive branch appointments; he discussed the progress of the Anchorage Assembly redistricting process (recently a contractor was hired to assist the assembly in drawing the maps); Assembly member Rivera discussed the departure of Chief Equity officer Clifford Armstrong¹; Assembly member Rivera discussed the upcoming budget process. After two public hearings, the budget is supposed to be voted on by the assembly in the second meeting in November. Overall, the administration was looking for a 5 percent budget cut across the board. In the end, they were only able to achieve a little over a 1 percent budget cut (this comes to a little over 7 million dollar reduction in the budget). There were some interesting policy choices that the mayor made regarding the alcohol tax, gutting the early childhood education funding, the mobile crisis team, gutting the mayor’s community grants, and then shifting the library to an independent department to a department underneath parks and recreation. The assembly will start delving into the budget and see if there is any middle ground that can be offered in the

¹ <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/10/11/mayor-bronson-fires-chief-equity-officer-without-approval-of-anchorage-assembly/>

amendment process. Fire Station 3: Brian Murphy reminded us that daylight savings time is coming up and introduced himself to the community council. Joy Boston, JBER: there are internship opportunities coming up at the base in the summer of 22; there is going to be an early public notice of impact to wetlands for a runway construction project on base. Senator Tom Begich: Not much going on in the special session on the Senate side. Senator Begich talked with the Chancellor at UAA recently and they gave him this impression that they have no interest in pushing for a Bragaw extension. Representative Geran Tarr: Discussed ideas and discussions in the legislature regarding fiscal policy/revenue generation.² Rep. Tarr also discussed a recent public meeting/discussion about her consent bill.³ Carl Jacobs, Anchorage School Board: The School Board has been looking at standardized testing metrics; the board reauthorized superintendent to adjust COVID mitigation measures.

PTA Report: Principal Mike Webb provided a report. Mr. Webb discussed emphasis on habits of mind (things like persistence, managing impulsivity, having a sense of humor, striving for accuracy, and the global skills that can help kids succeed in learning). Lastly, Mr. Webb discussed the directional plan the Airport Heights Neighborhood engagement project.⁴

Senator Tom Begich (re Redistricting): Sen. Begich discussed redistricting with the council and what the redistricting board is taking into account. Sen. Begich mentioned that there is legal precedent that does not require the redistricting process to preserve community council areas in its map making. Senator Begich recently discussed his recent thoughts on the redistricting process in the pages of the Anchorage Daily News.⁵

Meg Zaletel: Assembly member Zaletel addressed our body to discuss the Proposed Sullivan Arena Mass Care Exit Strategy and Long Term Intervention. The power point that Ms. Zaletel used in her presentation can be found here:

<https://www.alaskasnewsresource.com/2021/10/21/anchorage-town-hall-meeting-discuss-new-homelessness-plan/>

Nominations Committee: The nominations committee presented the following slate of officers:

President: Carolyn Ramsey

Vice President: Barbara Karl

Secretary/Treasurer: John Grover Whitlock

At Large members: Genevieve Mina and Jena Ferrarese

² <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2021/10/12/we-cant-afford-to-wait-to-fix-alaskas-fiscal-situation/>

³ <https://www.billtrack50.com/billdetail/1262656>

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z8egVHgPGGQpI7FkeYXfUv3h3ryqnaPQ/view?usp=sharing>
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1acPyzRVpo3JTSaWV_QRUifuUBVQoeB83/view?usp=sharing

⁵ <https://www.adn.com/opinions/2021/11/12/the-alaska-redistricting-boards-last-minute-gerrymandering-failed-our-state/>

A call for any additional nominations was made. Hearing none, Amber Morris moved to adopt the slate of officers presented by the nominations committee. The motion was seconded. The motion passed with no objection.

President Ramsey announced that Chelsea Ward-Waller would be serving as the Traffic Committee Chair; Brita Mjos would serve as the parks committee chair; and Tyler Boyes would be the Zoning Committee Chair.

President's Report: President Ramsey asked for permission from the counsel to write or sign on to a letter regarding mobile crisis team funding.⁶ The letter would have to do with having the mobile crisis team continuing under the jurisdiction of the fire department. A motion was made by Barbara Karl to instruct President Ramsey to write or sign on to a letter to supporting the mobile crisis team staying under AFD's umbrella. The motion was seconded by Geran Tarr and passed with unanimous consent.

President Ramsey also discussed recent zoning changes regarding height limits and asked for consent of the body to write or sign on to a letter supporting the preservation of solar shading setbacks in zoning code. A motion was made by Ann and seconded by Barbara Karl to instruct President Ramsey to write or sign on to a letter supporting the preservation of solar shading setbacks. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

FCC Report: FCC Alternate Delegate Whitlock mentioned that there was discussion about land use plan implementation and provided the counsel with the following link:

<http://www.muni.org/departments/ocpd/planning/projects/anchlanduse/pages/default.aspx>

Community Concerns:

Genevieve Mina plugged the Bettye David Summit on COVID 19 that is coming up.

Rayette Sterling with the Mt. View Public Library shared the following information:

<https://fb.me/e/MH1Ii7ii>

Assembly member Meg Zaletel discussed the upcoming recall vote and accepted questions from members of the community.

⁶ <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2021/11/11/advocates-for-anchorage-alcohol-tax-criticize-bronsons-proposal-to-change-to-how-the-money-is-spent/>